

Application Serial No.: 10/719,748
Attorney Docket No.: ASA 02-4-2

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3-11 and 13-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, and 12 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 10, 11, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moeller (4,085,337 hereinafter ‘337). Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to depend from amended Claim 3 which now includes the limitation of “the tapered channel which narrows from a region of large cross-sectional area to a region of small cross-sectional area counter to a direction of rotation of the self tapping head.” Since Claim 3 was stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, it is applicant’s belief that Claims 10 and 11 dependency on Claim 3 renders such Claims allowable. Independent Claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of “a region of large cross-sectional area to a region of small cross-sectional area counter to a direction of rotation of the self tapping head.” Such subject matter was stated by the Examiner has not anticipated by prior art. In addition, dependent Claims 22 and 23 are believed to allowable based upon dependency of amended Claim 21. Thus, the pending 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of Claims 10, 11, and 21-23 are believed to be obviated. Removal of the pending rejection is respectfully requested and allowance solicited.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 6, 7, 12, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moeller (‘337), as applied to claims 1, 10, 11, and 21-23 above, in view of Hylwa et al. (5,960,667).

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Claims 2 and 12 have been canceled. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to depend from amended Claim 3 instead of Claim 1. Since Claim 3 was stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, it is applicant's belief that Claims 10 and 11 dependency on amended Claim 3 renders such Claims allowable. Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to depend from Claim 13 instead of Claim 12. Claim 13 was stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Such action has been taken and as such, it is applicant's belief that Claims 16 and 17 which now depend upon amended Claim 13 are allowable. Thus, the pending 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection is believed to be obviated for Claims 6, 7, 16, and 17. Thus, removal of the pending rejection is respectfully requested and allowance solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Patent Office is thanked for indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3-5, 8, 9, and 13-15. The allowable subject matter has been incorporated, as needed, such that all pending claims contain allowable subject matter. Applicant wishes to seek expeditious issuance of a patent containing claims directed to subject matter found allowable by the Patent Office. Thus, Applicant has amended claims 3, 6-8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, and 21 to include subject matter found allowable by the Examiner. However, Applicant does not acquiesce to the rejections of claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10-12, 16, 17, and 21-23, and reserves the right to present claims drawn to the same or similar subject matter for consideration in a continuing application

Since Claims 18-20 were allowed and Claims 3-11, 13-17, and 21-23 all contain limitations indicated as allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that all pending Claims are allowable.

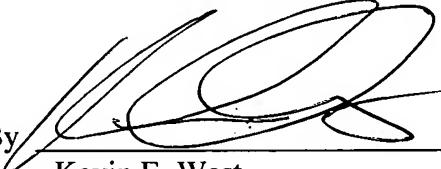
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CONCLUSIONS

In light of the forgoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
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